Technical cooperation in space technology

*231. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether America is providing technical cooperation to India for furthering space technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The space cooperation between India and USA currently covers only space science and space applications. ISRO has accepted two scientific instruments from USA for inclusion in Indian instrumented lunar mission Chandrayaan-1. There is also an arrangement in place for sharing of data and science in the field of earth observations and meteorology.

Inter-State roads proposals pending with Government

†*232. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of Rajasthan Government regarding inter-State roads are pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, since when the four estimates of inter-State roads are pending with Government for technical approval and financial sanctions;

(c) by when Government would accord approval to these proposals and sanction these estimates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indo-US Nuclear deal

*233. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government expect the Indo-US Nuclear deal to stay on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

course despite the come back of the Democrats in the recently held US mid-term polls; and

(b) what implications the recently held North Korean Nuclear test would have on the Indo-US Nuclear treaty and of the possibilities of Iran venturing a nuclear device test in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indo-US nuclear understanding enjoys broad bi-partisan support reflected in the large majorities by which both Republicans and Democrats voted in favour of the Bills to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India in the US House of Representatives and the Senate. Out of 201 Democrats in the House of Representatives, 140 voted in favour of the Bill. In the Senate, where the vote took place after the mid-term election results were announced, 32 out of 44 Democrats voted for the Bill. Support from the Democrats included senior Democratic leaders in both the House.

(b) The India-US nuclear understanding is based on its own merits with a view to addressing India's growing energy requirements. It cannot be linked either to North Korea's nuclear test or Iran's nuclear policy.

Allotment of land and buildings in public interest

*234. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allot land and buildings to institutions and persons in public interest;

(b) how much land has been allotted in the years, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to such identified institutions and people by Government in Delhi;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for such valuable land have been rejected;

(d) if so, the system Government have in place to allot land to some applicants and then reject others; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Apart from allotment of land to various Government agencies, the Land & Development Office allots land in Delhi to the registered Trusts